

(Washington, DC) Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) issued the following statement in commemoration of the 24th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day that will be celebrated on Monday, January 18, 2010:

“As we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we must remember his dedication to public service as a way to combat inequalities, unify people, and build stronger communities. His commitment to public service and reform is particularly poignant in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the countless Americans who are struggling to find jobs and provide for their families, and the millions of Americans who live without health care,” said Hastings.

“Although we have made significant progress in the battle against discrimination and inequity, the long road to success still stretches before us. Disparities in employment, health, and wealth continue to persist among communities of color in the United States and abroad, and this will require comprehensive and sustainable interventions,” further noted Hastings.

“Dr. King was a defining character of the civil rights era, but his message and goal to strive for the equality and well-being of all people is timeless. I encourage all Americans to recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a day to reflect on the achievements and legacy of this extraordinary man as well as a call to action to bring about progress in our local and global community.”

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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